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Message Text

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15
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

SAJ-01 CU-02 /055 W
---------- 019442
R 221544Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 436
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7087

E.O. 11652 XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, UR
SUBJECT: MORE ON CRACKDOWN ON NON-CONFORMIST ARTISTS

REF: A. MOSCOW 6883 B. LENINGRAD 743

USIA FOR IBS, IEE

1. ONE OF NON-CONFIRMIST ART GROUP'S LEADERS, MIKHAIL ODNORALOV, CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF MAY 22 THAT ARTISTS HAD DECIDED TO "POSTPONE" OUTDOOR ART SHOW IN LENINGRAD BECAUSE OF PRESENT ATMOSPHERE. ARTISTS ARE MAKING FORMAL COMPLAINTTS TO MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND CULTURAL ADMINISTATIONS IN MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD ABOUT "KGB" THREATS AND HARASSMENT OF ARTISTS WHO PLANNED TO EXHIBIT IN LENINGRAD. ODNORALOV SAID HE HAD BEEN THREATENED WITH EXPULSION FROM ARTISTS UNION IF HE DID NOT CEASE ACTIVITIES AND THAT UNOFFICIAL ARTIST OSKAR RABIN HAD BEEN SUMMARILY THROWN OUT OF MOSCOW GRAPHIC ARTISTS UNION. ODNORALOV INDICATED THAT ARTISTS, AFTER MAKING PROTESTS, WOULD KEEP QUIET FOR A WHILE AND THEN TRY TO REGROUP.

2. ANOTHER LEADING ARTIST, DMITR'Y PLANVINSK'Y, TOLD EMBOFF MAY 21 THAT HE, RABIN AND NUMBER OF UNOFFICIAL ARTISTS KNOWN IN WEST WERE SO DISCOURAGED BY PRESENT SITUATION THAT THEY PLANNED
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TO APPLY FOR EMIGRATION. (SEVERAL OTHERS HAVE ALSO RECENTLY

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MENTIONED EMIGRATION POSSIBILITY TO EMBOFF). THEY ARE NOW IN PROCESS OF TRYING TO OBTAIN INVITATIONS FROM ISRAEL. PLAVINSK'Y, WHO RECENTLY SHOWED WORKS IN OFFICIALLY APPROVED EXHIBITS, FELT THAT EXTREMELY HARD-LINE ARTICLE IN MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA MAY 17 (REF A) WAS MEANT TO BE CLEAR SIGNAL TO NON-CONFORMISTS OF TOUGH REGIME POLICIES TO COME. AS TO REASONS FOR AUTHORITIES' ALLOWING RECENT SERIES OF ART SHOWS IN APARTMENTS AND STUDIOS IN MOSCOW, PLAVINSK'Y FELT INTENT WAS TO FLUSH OUT NON-CONFORMISTS SO THAT CRACKDOWN COULD BE COMPLETE LATER.
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